

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 01826 101822Z

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AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 1826

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR,US

SUBJECT: MFA PROTESTS DISTRIBUTION OF "DIALOGUE" ISSUE
CONTAINING MATERIAL ON SOLZHENITSYN

1. DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF MFA USA DIVISION KOMPLEKTOV CALLED
IN DCM FEBRUARY 10 AND GAVE HIM ORAL STATEMENT PROTESTING
EMBASSY DISSEMINATION OF ISSUE OF "DIALOGUE" CONTAINING
MATERIAL REGARDING SOLZHENITSYN. TEXT OF PROTEST FOLLOWS:

2. "USSR MFA CONSIDERS IT NECESSARY TO BRING TO THE
ATTENTION OF THE U.S. EMBASSY THE FOLLOWING.

" IT HAS COME TO THE ATTENTION OF THE MINISTRY THAT THERE
HAVE RECENTLY BEEN CASES OF DISSEMINATION BY THE EMBASSY,
INCLUDING TO A NUMBER OF SOVIET INSTITUTIONS AND PRIVATE
CITIZENS, OF THE MAGAZINE "DIALOGUE" PUBLISHED BY USIA
AND CONTAINING MATERIAL HOSTILE TO THE SOVIET UNION.

"FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE THIRD NUMBER OF THE AFOREMENTIONED
JOURNAL FOR 1974, WHICH THE EMBASSY BEGAN TO DISSEMINATE
IN JANUARY THIS YEAR, ARE REPRODUCED SLANDEROUS
FABRICATIONS OF SOLZHENITSYN INCLUDING HIS INFAMOUS
ATTACK ON THE FOUNDER OF THE SOVIET STATE, V.I. LENIN.
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 01826 101822Z

IT SHOULD BE CLEAR TO THE EMBASSY THAT ITS DISTRIBUTION

OF PUBLICATIONS CONTAINING MATERIAL HOSTILE TO THE SOVIET STATE AND INSULTING TO THE SOVIET PEOPLE IS A CLEAR VIOLATION OF THE STATUS OF A DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION, NOT TO MENTION THE FACT THAT IT IN NO WAY CORRESPONDS TO THE TASK OF IMPROVING RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

"THE MINISTRY CALLS THE EMBASSY'S ATTENTION TO THE IMPERMISSIBILITY OF THE DISSEMINATION OF SUCH LITERATURE AND EXPECTS THE IMMEDIATE CESSATION OF SUCH A PRACTICE AND ITS BANNING IN THE FUTURE."

3. DCM SAID HE WOULD TRANSMIT ORAL STATEMENT TO DEPARTMENT. SPEAKING UNOFFICIALLY, HE SAID THAT "DIALOGUE" IS PUBLISHED IN ENGLISH AND IT WAS HIS RECOLLECTION THAT THE MATERIAL ON SOLZHENITSYN WAS SIMPLY A REVIEW OF SOLZHENITSYN BY AN AMERICAN AUTHOR. HE OBSERVED THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT COMPLAIN ABOUT MATERIAL DISTRIBUTED BY THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON AND INDEED THAT NO EFFORT IS MADE TO INSPECT MUCH MATERIAL. KOMPLEKTOV DENIED THAT ANY MATERIAL DISSEMINATED BY THE SOVIET EMBASSY IS HOSTILE TO THE U.S.

4. COMMENT: WE FIND IT INTERESTING THAT THE PROTEST DID NOT RPT NOT RELATE TO DISSEMINATION OF "DIALOGUE" PER SE, BUT ONLY TO ARTICLE ON SOLZHENITSYN. (AS DEPT AND USIA AWARE, DISTRIBUTION OF "DIALOGUE" IS NOT COVERED UNDER SPECIFIC AGREEMENT.) IN VIEW OF FACT THAT ONLY 250 COPIES OF "DIALOGUE" ARE DISTRIBUTED HERE IN ENGLISH--MOSTLY TO OTHER EMBASSIES AND CORRESPONDENTS--WE DOUBT THAT SOVIETS WILL TAKE THIS MATTER ANY FURTHER. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT NO RESPONSE BE MADE TO SOVIET DEMARCHE.
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